

# Teaching **English**

### **January**

- a. January is named after the Roman god Janus. He was a god who looked after new beginnings.
- b. *Janus* had a second role. He guarded doors into and out of all kinds of places.
- c. A *Janus* word is a word that is spelled the same forwards and backwards, e.g. radar.

### **February**

- a. February is named after the Roman goddess, *Febronica* who protected wildlife and gave people good health.
- b. February is named after a special feast, called the Feast of Februa, that took place during this month.
- c. February is National Grapefruit Month, a food holiday when people are encouraged to eat more citrus fruit.

### March

- a. In Ancient Times the month of March was the last month of the year.
- b. The month of March is named after the Roman god of war, *Mars*, from the original Latin word *Martius*.
- c. March is *National Noodle Month* in some countries around the world when people are encouraged to eat lots of noodles.

# **April**

- a. The month of April comes from the Latin *Aprillis*, the fourth month of the ancient Roman calendar.
- b. April is named after *Aprilia*, the Roman god of speed.
- c. In old English, April was called Eastermondab (Easter month).

# May

- a. The month of May is named after the Greek god *Mayo*.
- b. The month of May is named after the Greek goddess *Maya*.
- c. Mayo (or Maya) was the child of Atlas and Hermes.

#### June

- a. June is named after the Roman god *Juno*, wife of Jupiter, goddess of marriage and childbirth.
- b. June used to be called *the midsummer month*.
- c. June used to be called *the wedding month*.



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### July

- a. July was named after *Julius Caesar* after he died in the year 44 BC.
- b. July is *family fun month* when people are encouraged to do fun things with their family.
- c. July is *anti-boredom month* when people are encouraged to do things to stop getting bored.

### **August**

- a. In the 8th century BC the first Roman emperor *Augustus* died. To honour their leader, the Romans decided to name a month after him.
- b. They chose the 8th calendar month because the emperor had won eight great battles in his lifetime.
- c. In English, august also means *respected*.

# September

- a. September comes from the Latin word septum which means seven. It used to be the 7th month in the Ancient Roman calendar.
- b. In Old English September used to be called *thrimilce* (three milk) because cows gave milk three times at this time of year.
- c. In Old English September used to be called *haligmonath* (Holy month).

### **October**

- a. October was named after Octogen the Great defeated Darous III of Persian in the year 331 BC, causing the fall of the Persian Empire.
- b. October comes from the Latin word *octo* which means eight. The name was chosen because it used to be the 8th month in the Ancient Roman calendar.
- C. October comes from the Latin word octo which means eight. The name was chosen because there are eight full moons each October.

### **November**

- a. In some countries November is *National Blog Posting Month*.
- b. November comes from the Latin word novem which means nine. It was once the 9th month in the Ancient Roman calendar.
- c. November is the month of the year when most babies are born across the world.

### **December**

- a. December comes from the Latin name *Decima* who represents the present time.
- b. December used to be the 10th month in the old Roman calendar which had only 304 days.
- c. In Old English, December used to be called 'Blotmonath' (blood-month).